



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Bass Lake (Mazonia Lake #3)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Bass Lake (Lake #3) is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area Main Unit, 3 miles southwest of Braidwood in Grundy County on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

DESCRIPTION – Bass Lake is one of the largest impoundments in the Mazonia Main Unit covering 28.4 surface acres. It is connected by narrow, non-navigable channels to Big Dog and Woody Lakes. Bass Lake also receives water from the Mazon River during high water periods, which has resulted in diversification of the fish population. In 2016, Asian carp (silver carp) were collected. Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass. Bass Lake has a one-lane concrete boat ramp and adjacent parking area. Bass Lake is closed to fishing during upland game and waterfowl season. Following the completion of the hunting seasons, it reopens for ice fishing dependent upon ice conditions.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Bass Lake is surveyed on an alternate year basis. Fish stocking has included channel catfish and northern pike (discontinued due to poor results).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The collection of largemouth bass increased in 2016 with the total number of bass 8" or larger fish exceeding the long term average. Size distribution shows year class survival for ages 1 and older and combined mortality (angling and natural) reducing numbers of bass as they reach and exceed 17 inches. The lack of bass less than 8 inches may indicate poor spawning success for the previous year. Despite heavy bass tournament pressure the percentage of legal size bass in this lake has actually increased in the last few years and in 2016 was more than twice the long term average. A number of bass 18" and larger were also collected.

BLUEGILL – The 2016 survey yielded a very good collection of bluegill. Size distribution suggests adequate rates of reproduction and recruitment although somewhat depressed values for body condition tend to suggest interspecific competition. This is not unexpected due to the present of gizzard shad in this lake. The collection of larger bluegills has fallen off slightly in the past several surveys. No bluegills were collected which were 8 inches or better while nearly 6% of the population which was at least stock size measured 7 inches or larger.

CRAPPIE – The combined species collection exhibited fair age group structure, had an average length of 8.8" with fish up to nearly 14" collected. Bass Lake should provide crappie anglers with fair opportunity in the coming season.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel catfish were absent from the initial IDNR surveys, although a resident population was suspected. A stocking program ensued in 1996 and non-vulnerable size fish have been released nine times, most recently in 2015 (50 7.5" fish). Recovery of catfish in IDNR surveys has been sporadic and in 2016 a total of 11 fish were collected, which is average for these spring surveys. Catfish collected in 2016 ranged from 14.6" to 21.7".

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: A variety of other species which can be caught include common carp, bullheads, yellow bass, freshwater drum, longnose gar and various sucker species.

2016 IDNR Fall Survey Results

Species	Number of Fish Collected in each Length Category (Inch)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth Bass	3	9	16	55	33	1	0	0	117
Bluegill	207	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	276
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	1	7	3	0	0	11
Crappie	2	16	10	3	0	0	0	0	31
Yellow Bass	6	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	23
Longnose Gar	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	5

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters - Trolling motor only, except Monster and Ponderosa Lake – gasoline outboards allowed, no wake

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 fish daily creel limit on Ponderosa, unlimited elsewhere

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 fish daily creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.